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Department of the Youth Authority

SUBJECT: Victims Reparation Project

BRANCH: Office of Prevention and Victim Services

The Victims Reparation Project (VRP) monitors Youth Authority (YA) commitments for restitution orders and fine compliance. To achieve consistency in practices related to fines and victim compensation, the VRP provides policy guidance within the YA and to outside agencies. Monitoring includes the evaluation of interrelated, statewide systems affecting restitution application.

With emphasis on restorative justice principles, the project works to ensure offenders are held accountable for the financial consequence of their criminal conduct. This is accomplished through aggressive identification of offender restitution obligations, so that the parole and institutions accounting offices may likewise collect monies owed to victims and or the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB).

In addition, the VRP provides restitution related trainings to both YA staff and offenders for the purpose of providing staff a greater understanding of the types and requirements of restitution and improving YA ward accountability and responsibility.

Implementation of YA's Victims Reparation Project has resulted in the following:

- Increased restitution assessments;
- Increased restitution collections and remittances;
- Increased identification of Victims of Crime (VOC) Program claims resulting in enhanced VOC Program reimbursement;
- An increase in YA victims' awareness of financial assistance through the VOC Program;
- The development of standardized restitution procedures;
- Improved disbursement of restitution collected from offenders participating in the Department's Free Venture Program;
- Improved communication with external agencies regarding YA restitution issues; and,
- Improved tracking of restitution orders.

The Victims Reparation Project was originally funded through the VCGCB in 1997 through an interagency agreement pending yearly renewal. The VCGCB has rendered ongoing financial support due to the success of the project.

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